

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
TIMES-UNION

m. 152,373
S. 166,652

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Date:

Uninformed Government Cannot Function Well

The right to know is a basic cornerstone of the American concept of government. It is assumed that if the people know all sides of any question, they will be able to adopt a sound, reasoned course of action which will guide this nation.

Therefore, the action of a Senate Judiciary subcommittee in approving a bill designed to guarantee freedom of information to all is most commendable. However, a survey of one day's news shows the bill may not go far enough. Instead of just allowing the public to gain information within certain limits, it ought to require the exchange of knowledge within the framework of our complex government.

As an example, a congressional committee issued a report calling for the development of a new metal for construction of a super speed jet transport. Unknown to the committee was the fact that this nation already had the required metal under test.

A second story had Senator Thomas J. Dodd calling for an inquiry into the reason that poor evaluations were made of the situation in Ghana. He might have asked the same question for Cuba, Viet Nam and Laos. The Senator hinted that someone had passed on faulty information.

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Still a third story told of a Russian defector who claimed the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department were pocketed with Red undercover agents. No one has announced arrests or firm denials of the story.

Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara is on his way to Viet Nam to determine the situation there. He ought to be able to rely on intelligence from the field. Why does he have to go?

A free and efficient flow of information between military units is needed if success is to be attained in the field of battle. The same is no less true for all the operations of government and the flow should not be stopped because of petty, interdepartmental jealousies, squabbles and aims. No artificial blocks should keep all branches of government and the people from being adequately informed as to the facts of any situation.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.
INQUIRER

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Reassurance on CIA
(Omaha World-Herald)

The problems of operating an intelligence agency in a free society are complicated, to be sure. The public cannot and should not be told everything the CIA is doing. But the public should be given reasonable assurance that adequate supervision is keeping the huge agency within its assigned sphere and free from Communist infiltration.

SPOKANE, WASH.
SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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S. 130,793

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Alertness Needed to Combat Reds

Many times in recent years it has been asserted that there is no Communist threat from within, that the only threat is external.

These statements are based on the fact that known membership in the Communist party, U.S.A., has declined in the past few years where today it is relatively small.

However, the fact does remain that since the Communist party was listed as a subversive organization it is not popular to be a member and there now are fewer "card-carrying Communists" than was the case at one time.

But does this mean there still are not many who believe in the philosophy of the Communist party and are not working toward the overthrow of the United States government?

A report by a responsible New York newspaper now tells that a defector from the Soviet Secret Police has informed U.S. officials that Moscow has placed active Communist cells in the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department.

The report claimed that the defector has named names and "has provided Washington with details of what looms as a greater scandal than the Alger Hiss case."

This report is one which should be of tremendous concern to all Americans and which should be investigated by every facility available. If any portion of it is proved to be true it would behoove us all to be alert to the dangers of this conspiracy which has said it will bury us. The menace is real.

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